CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF VENEZUELA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY HIS GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING MORATORIUM ON NUCLEAR TESTING

I have pleasure in forwarding to you the attached communique from the Government of Venezuela relating to the decision adopted by the United States, the Russian Federation and France to extend the moratorium they have voluntarily and unilaterally placed on their nuclear testing programmes, as well as the intention expressed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to do likewise.

I would be very grateful if this text could be published as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all delegations, both of member States and of non-member States participating in this multilateral negotiating forum.

(Signed): Horacio Arteaga
Ambassador
Permament Representative

COMMUNIQUE

The Government of Venezuela welcomes the decision taken by the Governments of the United States of America, the Russian Federation and France to extend the moratorium they have voluntarily and unilaterally placed on their nuclear testing, as well as the intention expressed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to associate itself with this decision. This moratorium, which has been observed by these countries since last year, opens the path towards fulfilment of the undertaking entered into by the above-mentioned Powers in the preamble to the 1963 partial test-ban Treaty and in the preamble to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Venezuela, which, in keeping with its policy favouring general and complete disarmament, possesses no nuclear weapons, reaffirms the importance of the earliest possible conclusion of a complete nuclear-test-ban treaty as a decisive step that can put an end to the cycle of the development and production of these aggressive systems.

Venezuela notes with optimism this process that should lead to the total cessation of nuclear testing, and expresses its keen wish that the nuclear Powers should adopt more effective measures in pursuit of nuclear disarmament and the elimination of existing nuclear arsenals.